Holes in the Board, the one having the red hot Iron in it, the other the Candle.

Now if, of the refracted Rays of the Candle in the firſt Caſe (*Fig.* 25.) thoſe which diverge from each other, ſo as to fall into each Eye, cauſe the ſame Senſations reſpectively, as the Rays which come from a red hot Iron and thoſe which come from a blue Candle; it is evident that the Candle in the firſt caſe affords red-making and blue-making Rays after Refraction, and that thoſe Rays are differently refrangible; the red *b R* (*Fig.* 25.) the leaſt refrangible, as declining leſs from the Perpendicular ϖ ϖ; and the Purple as *b P* declining moſt from the ſaid Perpendicular.

The ſame will (*cæteris paribus*) be found true in the intermediate Rays; and to be certain that the Experiment is as I have related it, the Planes *α f* and *f d* of the Barr may be covered with Paper.

IV. *An Account of what appear'd on opening the* big-belly'd Woman *near* Haman *in* Shropſhire, *who was ſuppos'd to have continued many Years with Child. Communicated by Dr.* Hollings M.D. *from* Shrewsbury.

A Marry'd Woman, near *Haman* about Three Miles from *Shrewsbury*, about the 40*th* Year of her Age, had then firſt the common Reaſons to believe ſhe was with Child: at the Time of her Account ſhe had the uſual Signs of Labour, and a good Midwife, tho' miſtaken, aſſur'd her it was ſo, but that the Child was ſo big ſhe could not be delivered without bringing it away in pieces. She not ſubmitting to that, her Pains were ſoon off, and ſhe continued without any other Diſorders Nine Months longer, when

when ſhe had again the Signs of Labour; and the ſame Midwife aſſur'd her as before, and ſhe perſiſting in her former Reſolution, her Pains, after a Day or two went off. Soon after her Belly ſwell'd to a ſurprizing Size, by which ſhe got Subſiſtance for her Family by being ſeen as a Shew. I ſaw her firſt above twenty Years ſince, when her Belly was almoſt even with her Chin, the Weight of it ſo great, that ſhe was oblig'd to ſupport it with a Stool. She could not ſtand without the help of a Rope from the Cieling, which aſſiſted her in changing her Poſture of ſitting. She ſlept commonly with her Arms folded on her Belly, and her Head reſted between them. She had no ſwelling in her Legs: every other Part emaciated as uſual in the like Caſes. Thus this poor Creature liv'd without any other conſiderable Complaint above Thirty Years, the moſt remarkable Circumſtance, I think, in her Caſe. She died in *May* 1715, when this appear'd to be an *Aſcites*.

I need not mention the State the common Teguments muſt neceſſarily be in from ſo great a Diſtention, which had diſtorted many of her Ribs, and forc'd the Diaphragm ſo high, that it was ſurprizing to find her breathing could be ſo long continu'd. The Water was all contain'd in the Duplicature of the *Peritonæum*, 13 Gallons beſides a Quart that was ſpilt: it was ſaltiſh, with ſome little fat upon it, and towards the latter Running ting'd with Blood as uſual. There was not any Water in the Cavity of the *Abdomen*, except what was contain'd in a kind of Bladder of the Shape I have ſent, *Fig.* 31. which lay a-croſs the *Fundus Uteri*. This was divided by a Cartilaginous Subſtance into two Cavities; in one there was a Pint and a half, in the other three Parts of a Pint of Water. I believe it was this (I know not how) impos'd on the Midwife. The *Uterus* was of the natural Size without any Alteration, except that the *Os Tincæ* and *Collum minus* were fill'd with a gritty Subſtance, hard as Stone, which I take to be the Humour

ſepa-

ſeparated there, and coagulated by Time. Mr. *Cooper Tab.* 15. *Fig.* 4. ſays he found the ſame Parts fill'd with a glutinous Matter, which he thinks is uſeful to prevent Abortion; which if vitiated, Impregnation is hinder'd.

The Liver and other parts contain'd in the *Abdomen*, were forc'd into an incredible ſmall Compaſs (and by that Preſſure a little chang'd in Shape) to perform their Office ſo long; to which the Muſcles of the *Abdomen*, diſtended ſo as to be ſcarce diſcernible, could give but little, if any, Aſſiſtance.

The Awe that People have here for dead Bodies, tho' never ſo prejudicial to the Living, would not ſuffer her Friends to let me make any farther Enquiry; ſo that I can ſend no Account of any other Part. The ſame Error hindered me examining another Woman, who died here about a Week after, of an *Aſcites* which ſhe had had Forty Years, any farther than to be ſatisfied ſhe had Seven Gallons of Water contain'd between the Duplicatures of the *Peritonæum*, and none in the Cavity of the *Abdomen*.

IV. *Methodus ſingularis quâ* Solis *Parallaxis ſive diſtantia à* Terra, *ope* Veneris *intra* Solem *conſpiciendæ, tuto determinari poterit: propoſita coram* Regia Societate *ab* Edm. Halleio J. U. D. *ejuſdem Societatis Secretario.*

PLurima ſunt maxime quidem paradoxa, omnemque fidem apud vulgus ſuperantia, quæ tamen adhibitis Mathematicarum Scientiarum principiis levi negotio enodantur. Ac ſane nullum problema magis arduum ac difficile videbitur, quam eſt *Solis à Terra* diſtantiam vero proximam determinare; quod tamen obtentis accuratis qui-

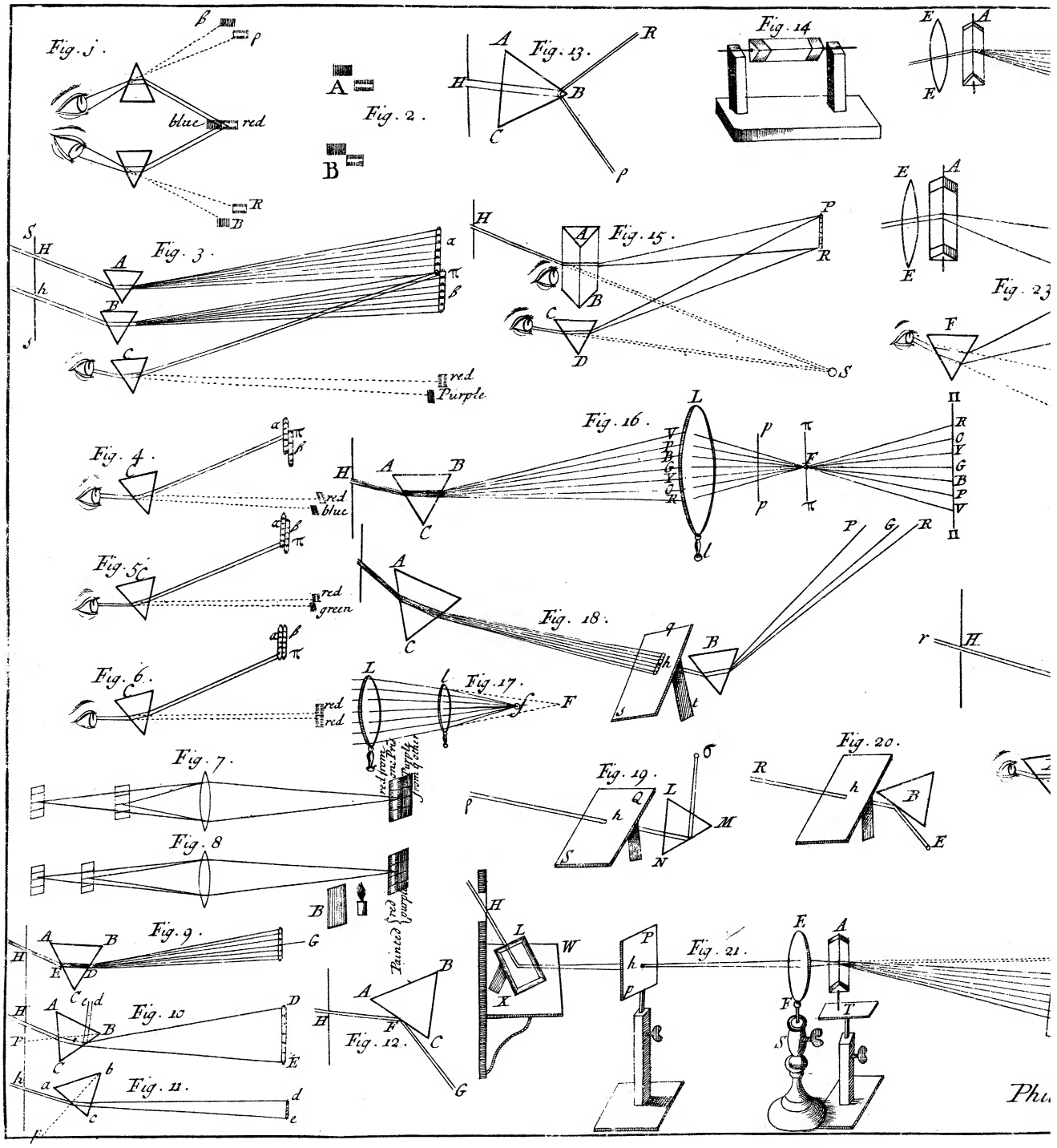
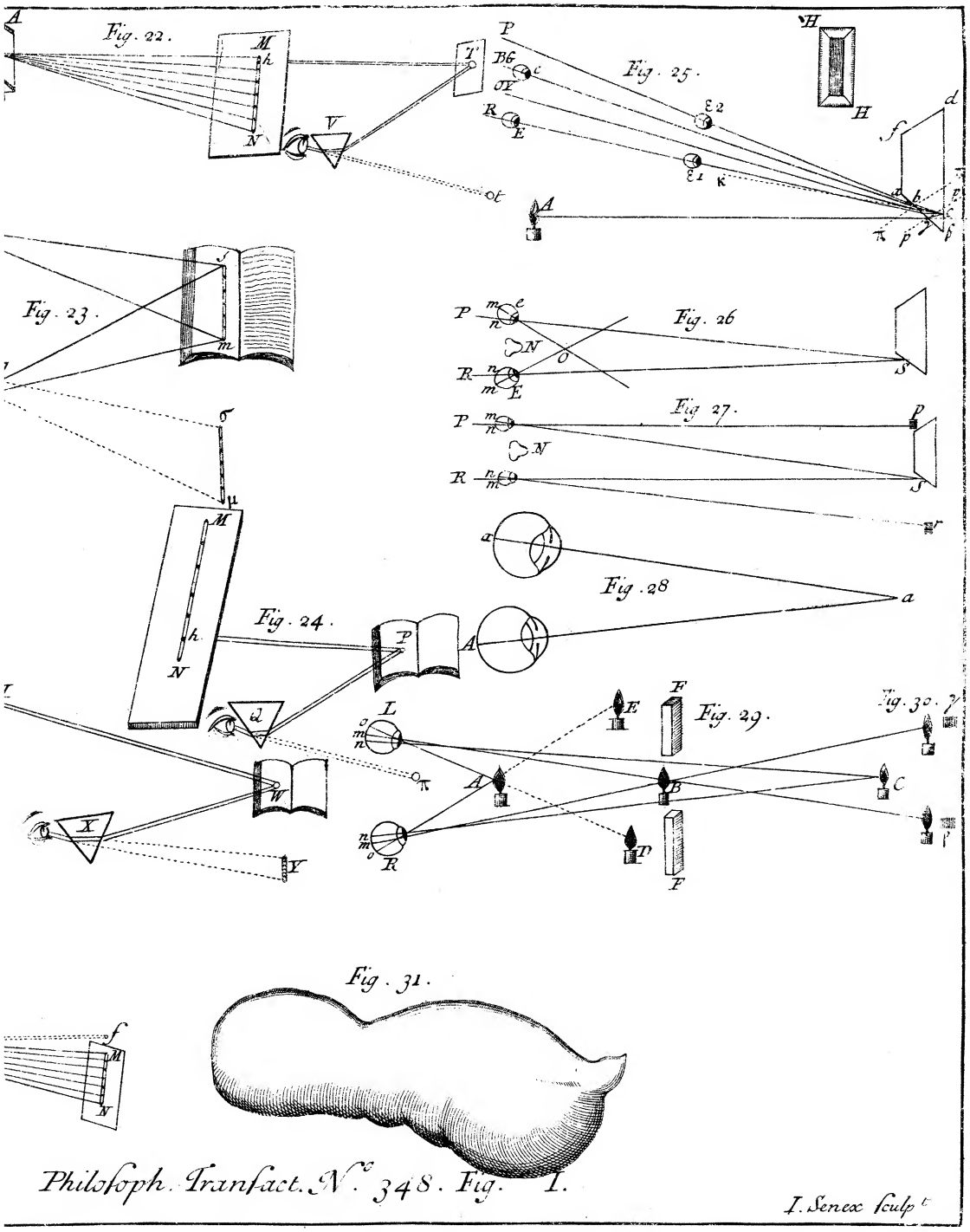


Fig. 1.
blue
red
Fig. 2.
A
B
Fig. 13.
Fig. 14
Fig. 3.
red
Purple
Fig. 15.
Fig. 23
Fig. 16.
Fig. 4.
red
blue
Fig. 5.
red
green
Fig. 18.
Fig. 6.
red
red
Fig. 17.
Fig. 7.
Fig. 8
Fig. 19.
Fig. 20.
Fig. 9.
Fig. 10
Fig. 11.
Fig. 12.
Fig. 21.
Phi



Philosoph. Transact. N.° 348. Fig. 1.

I. Senex sculp.